

REMARKS

This Amendment and Response is believed to be responsive to the Office Action mailed July 12, 2005. In that action: claims 1 and 15-24 were pending, the remainder having been withdrawn; the restriction requirement was made final; claims 1, 15, 17, and 19 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by Popovich (WO 00/07058); claims 16 and 20-23 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as obvious in light of Popovich; and claims 18 and 24 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected claim but allowable if amended into independent form.

Claim 1 has been amended. Claims 35-39 have been canceled. New claims 40-42 have been added. These new claims are all believed to be readable on Species III (claims 1 and 15-24). New claim 40 is dependent on claim 1 and is patentable for the same reasons that claim 1 is patentable, as discussed below, and due to the additional limitations found in claim 40. Claim 41 is believed to be patentable because none of the prior art appears to teach or suggest a display device with an image-generating arrangement configured to produce either or both of a real image of the image-generating arrangement and a virtual image of the image-generating arrangement, wherein the real image appears at a first location on the display device and the virtual image appears at a second location on the display device that is different from the first location. Claim 42 is dependent on claim 41 and is patentable for the same reasons that claim 41 is patentable, as discussed below, and due to the additional limitations found in claim 42. Reconsideration of the rejection of the rejected claims and examination of the new claims is hereby requested.

Independent claim 1 has been rejected as anticipated by Popovich. Popovich appears to disclose a visual display apparatus with reconfigurable holographic optics. A display panel can

be viewed in different modes including a public mode with a real image of the display panel projected onto a screen (602 in Figures 6A and 6B and 702 in Figure 7) for viewing by multiple people and a private mode with a virtual image of a projected image of the display panel. In the private mode, private projection optics (605 in Figures 6A and 6B and 705 in Figure 7) project a real image of the display panel onto an intermediate screen (passive diffuser 603 in Figures 6A and 6B and reconfigurable holographic diffuser 703 in Figure 7). The real image on the intermediate screen appears as a virtual image to the person using the video display apparatus via a reflection from a reconfigurable holographic mirror (601 in Figures 6A and 6B and 701 in Figure 7).

As can be appreciated, amended claim 1 is distinguishable over Popovich since it claims a display device with an image-generating arrangement that reproduces images, the images being visible in a first mode wherein the device produces a real image of the image-generating arrangement, the real image being suitable for direct viewing by the viewer, and a mode wherein the device produces a virtual image of the image-generating arrangement without producing a real image of the image-generation arrangement. Popovich produces a virtual image of a real image projected onto an intermediate screen. Claim 1 distinguishes over this design with the above underlined limitation. Thus, claim 1 is patentable over Popovich and the remainder of the cited prior art. Pending dependent claims 15-17, 19-23, and 40 are patentable for the same reasons and because of the additional limitations therein. Of course, dependent claims 18 and 24 have already been noted as containing allowable subject matter.

In addition, now that generic claim 1 is patentable, the withdrawn dependent claims (2-14 and 25-34) to species other than those claimed in dependent claims 15-24 can and should be

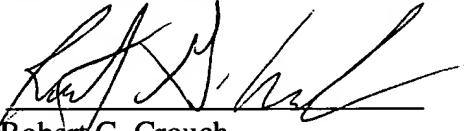
considered as noted in the Restriction Requirement mailed December 14, 2004. It is respectfully requested that these claims be examined and allowed as dependent on claim 1.

If claim 41 is found to be allowable, the applicants would like to add a set of dependent claims (identical to dependent claims 2-34) to depend from claim 41.

Based upon the foregoing, Applicants believe that all pending claims are in condition for allowance and such disposition is respectfully requested. In the event that a telephone conversation would further prosecution and/or expedite allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

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